1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bombay	75	60	15	12
4.	Calcutta	58	40	18	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	6	12	1
6.	Delhi	48	39	9	10
7.	Gauhati	24	20	4	—
8.	Gujarat	42	30	12	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	10	1	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	11	3	3
11.	Jharkhand	20	10	10	2
12.	Karnataka	41	40	1	5
13.	Kerala	38	25	13	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	43	39	4	3
15.	Madras	60	45	15	3
16.	Orissa	22	17	5	2
17.	Patna	43	24	19	1
18.	Punjab and Haryana	68	48	20	7
20.	Rajasthan	40	32	8	3
21.	Sikkim	3	1	2	—
22.	Uttarakhand	9	9	0	2
	Total	886	609	277	72

Backlog of court cases

2239. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India (CJI) has defended long breaks as judiciary is overworked and blames Government for setting up more courts to tackle backlog;

(b) whether total pendency of cases in Supreme Court picked up to 47,855 as per latest report;

(c) whether CJI has opened evening courts and wants their ambit widened;

(d) if so, whether Government has considered suggestions of CJI; and

(e) if so, what are the steps taken to reduce backlog in courts and whether more Judges are being appointed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Government has no information on any such remark made by the Chief Justice of India. However, Supreme Court has reduced summer vacation from 8 weeks to 7 weeks.

(b) As per the latest information available, a total of 48,838 cases were pending in the Supreme Court as on 31st August, 2008.

(c) and (d) The matter relating to setting up and functioning of Evening Courts was discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on 19th April, 2008. It was resolved that either Evening/Morning Courts be set up or Special Judicial Magistrates/Special Metropolitan Magistrates be appointed, to deal with cases involving petty offences, including traffic and municipal offences. The resolution has been sent to the State Governments and the High Courts for follow-up action. Evening Courts are already functional in the State of Gujarat and Delhi.

(e) Government has taken a number of steps to reduce backlog in Courts. 163 posts of Judges have been created in various High Courts. Government has already introduced The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2008 in the Lok Sabha on 29.4.2008 to increase the number of judges in Supreme Court from 25 to 30 excluding the Chief Justice of India. Schemes for Development of Infrastructural Facilities for Judiciary and computerization for all Courts in the country are being implemented. Fast Track Courts have been instituted for speedy disposal of long pending Sessions cases and the cases involving undertrials in jails. Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged. With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of cases, the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been amended and the concept of 'Plea Bargaining' has been introduced.

Coal shortages at NALCO

†2240. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) situated in Orissa, is facing the problems every year due to coal crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures being taken by the company to tackle the coal crisis; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Alumina powder is being sold by this nationalized company to its rival domestic companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has informed that they had shortfall in indigenous coal supply in the years 2005-06, 2007-08 and 2008-09. For meeting this shortall, the Company imported coal, as per details below:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.